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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 AGRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 USIE-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10
NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 EPG-02
SIL-01 OMB-01 /101 W
----------101042Z 016535 /10
O 101024Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4874
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

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USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY

PASS: CEA, TREASURY, FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OECD, ECON
SUBJECT: JUNE 14-15 MEETING OF ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (EPC): ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF EPC WORKING PARTY II ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

REF: PARIS 17015

1. IAN BYATT HAS BEEN A FREQUENT CONTACT FOR THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ATTACHE DURING THE PAST 5 YEARS. IN THAT TIME, HE HAS WORKED IN HMT'S PUBLIC EXPENDITURE - DOMESTIC SECTOR. HIS ECONOMICS ARE MAINSTREAM KEYNESIAN, WELL WITHIN THE DOMINANT STRAIN OF THINKING AT HMT. HE HAS A GOOD REPUTATION "IN HOUSE" AT HMT WHERE HE HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ANALYZING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PUBLIC POLICY. HE APPEARS TO HAVE MORE OF AN ACADEMIC THAN MAR-
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KET ORIENTATION IN HIS ECONOMIC BACKGROUND. OVER THE YEARS HE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND AS OPEN IN HIS DEALINGS AS POSSIBLE, GIVEN LIMITATIONS PLACED ON THOSE IN THE BUDGET-MAKING PROCESS.

2. HE IS A QUIETLY EFFECTIVE PERSON. AS A CHAIRMAN, HE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE DOGMATIC OR OVERBEARING BUT COULD

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BE EXPECTED TO RUN SESSIONS IN AN EFFICIENT AND IF NEC-
ESSARY FORCEFUL WAY. WE HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE EVEN TEM-
PERED AND FAIR. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE SECRETARIAT
WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDULY INFLUENCE HIS THINKING OR EASILY
MANIPULATE HIM.

3. REFTEL NOTES BYATT HAS CAPABLY REPRESENTED U.K. IN
WP-2. WE BELIEVE HE WOULD BE A CAPABLE CHAIRMAN TOO, BUT
CAN SEE NO COMPELLING REASON TO OPT FOR HIM IN PREFERENCE
TO ANOTHER EQUALLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATE, ESPECIALLY IF
TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING OTHER COMMITTEES ARE IN
VOLVED. IF U.S. DOES NOT SUPPORT BYATT. EMBASSY BELIEVES
THAT U.S. SHOULD REMAIN NEUTRAL IN CHAIRMANSHIP QUESTION.
GIVEN (A) OUR OWN WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, AND (B)
U.K. PIQUE AT FAILING TO HAVE OBTAINED WP-3 CHAIRMANSHIP
FOR MCMAHON OF BANK OF ENGLAND.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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